

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2016

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on December 21, 2016, at the American Legion, 1708 Commonwealth Ave., Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- Ken Shelton, Fifth Baptist Veterans' Ministry
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Raymond Kenney, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Jim Icenhour, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Richard Schollmann, Vice Chairman, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner, representing the Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- Chip Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services

- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Mike Anliker, Virginia National Guard Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- Tom Stephen, Association of the United States Army
- Jim Barrett, Marine Corps League
- Don Kaiserman, MOAA

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Delegate Rich Anderson
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Carrie Ann Alford, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Karla Boughey, DVS
- Alison Foster, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Paul Ormond, DVS
- Charlie Palumbo, DVS
- Christina Barrille, Department of Military Affairs

Others Present

- Stuart Williams, MOAA
- Vic Pena, MOAA
- Mike Smith, MOAA
- Maggie Wickersham
- Karen Jeffries, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Craig Cressman, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Diane Zumatto, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce – Military Affairs Council

Items included in the Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- October 12, 2016 draft meeting minutes (Agenda Item III)
- Reports (Agenda Item IV)
 - Board of Veterans Services
 - Veterans Services Foundation
- Budget Bill – Communications from the Governor (Agenda Item V)
- Executive Budget Document for the Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs (Agenda Item V)
- Executive Summary of the VVFS Work Group Report to JLARC (Agenda Item VIa)
- “One Person At A Time” VVFS Program in Action Handout (Agenda Item VIa)
- Proposed 2017 JLC Initiatives 2017-01 and 2017-07 (Agenda Item VIb)
- Proposed Summary of 2017 Initiatives (Agenda Item VIb)
- JLC Initiatives Position Papers 2017-02 through 2017-06 (Agenda Item VIb)

- Draft 2017 Meeting Schedule (Agenda Item VIc)
- Draft 2017 Work Plan (Agenda Item VId)
- 2017 JLC Conference sign-up sheet and draft itinerary (Agenda Item VIe)

The meeting agenda is included as *Attachment 1*.

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts

Chairman Harold “Bart” Barton, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain L. T. “Tim” Whitmore delivered an opening prayer, including special thoughts for AMVETS rep Rich Mansfield, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery, and the departure of former MOAA representatives Stu Williams and Vic Pena from the JLC and the new MOAA representative Frank Wickersham.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests

The roll was called, and 22 of the 25 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented. A quorum was determined. Mr. Jim Icenhour, Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was present. Mr. Rich Schollmann, Vice Chairman, attended for the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Mr. Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner, attended for the Department of Veterans Services.

Chairman Barton recognized new MOAA representative Frank Wickersham and alternate Don Kaiserman.

Ms. Carrie Ann Alford welcomed Mike Anliker, the new alternate representative for the Virginia National Guard Association, who will be filling in for primary representative Adam Provost while he is deployed.

Ms. Alford introduced the state officials and guests in attendance. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Barton welcomed them to the meeting.

Mr. Dan Boyer made the **motion, seconded** by Mr. Jim Cuthbertson, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Approve October 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. George Corbett made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Tim Whitmore, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting as drafted. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Jim Icenhour gave the BVS report (*Attachment 2*)

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Vice Chairman Rich Schollmann gave the VSF report. (Attachment 3)

Virginia Military Advisory Council

In Mr. Bill Barrett's absence, Mr. Curtis Jennings stated that he had not been given the details of the October the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) meeting on October 20, and did not attend. Chairman Barton asked Ms. Leslie Frazier to ensure that Mr. Jennings was added to the e-mail notification list for VMAC meetings.

State Board of Elections

Mr. Stu Williams updated the JLC that there was no new report since his three attempts to contact the SBE on October 11, November 28 and December 6 all went with no response. With his departure from the JLC, he is turning over duties to Mr. Frank Wickersham.

Virginia War Memorial Board

Marie Juliano stated that the next meeting of the Virginia War Memorial Board will be January 10, 2017, and that she would attend.

Hampton Drug Court Veterans Tract Advisory Council

In Mr. Rich Mansfield's absence, Mr. John Cooper said he had nothing specific to report from the Council but asked Ms. Alford to give an update on the veterans docket committee with the Supreme Court of Virginia (SVCA).

Ms. Alford updated the JLC, stating that the committee completed its work and in November the SCVA published a rule allowing judges to set up a specialty docket with cases related either for veterans or mental health. State Standards and an application will be published in the new year. She stated that Delegate Dave Albo has expressed his support of the new rule and there will be no legislation offered this year either to set up or oppose veterans dockets.

DVS has a new Criminal Justice Coordinator, Donna Harrison, who will be working with the SCVA and judges around the Commonwealth to set up veterans dockets.

Mr. Rich Rinaldo asked about contacting particular judges to promote the idea of veterans dockets. Ms. Alford requested that the JLC refrain from contacting individual judges. When the standards and application are published she will distribute to the JLC members, however, it will be better to refer interested judges to DVS for coordination.

Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket Steering Committee

In Mr. Dan Dennison's absence, Ms. Lauren Augustine had nothing further to add to the above report.

Presentation on the Governor's Proposed Budget, legislation to date and DVS update

Deputy Commissioner Combs gave an overview of HB1500/SB900 (the Budget Bill) and the Governor's 2017 proposed amendments to the budget and the Executive Budget Document. He explained that the Governor's introduced budget, which was offered on December 16th and will

go the General Assembly where it will be debated and members will offer their own budget amendments to the budget bill. The General Assembly will approve a final budget and send it back to the Governor at the end of Session, which this year is February 25th. The Governor will have three options: sign, veto or propose amendments/line item vetoes. It will be returned to the Legislature who will reconvene in Richmond 5 weeks after February 25 to consider the Governor's actions. After that they will send a final document to the Governor and he will either sign or veto. We will know the final budget after that reconvened session in April.

The Governor's introduced budget includes new funds for the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program, with \$610,128 in new funds and 34 new full-time positions authorized. Additionally, any GF appropriations for FY17 left over may be rolled over to FY18, which is rare – most remaining funds are returned to the Commonwealth's General Fund at the end of the year.

The General Assembly in 2016 put \$393,494 in "a lock box" to be released after the completion of the working group and their report to JLARC. Secretary Harvey made the report to the JLARC on November 14. The working group recommended the conversion of all the VVFS employees from Community Services Board (CSB) contract employees to state employees. See below for the full report.

There is also \$900,000 in new funds for the Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program, a top priority of Secretary Harvey. The grants would be awarded to organizations currently providing entrepreneurship training to veterans in Virginia.

DVS, like all state agencies, was required to offer up savings for the budget. DVS will delay the hiring of the new veterans care centers administrators and reduce the amount available in the V3 Grant Program. No additional savings proposals have been requested at this time.

Deputy Commissioner Combs also mentioned that in the VMI section of the budget is \$900,000 in funds to help with lost tuition by giving out-of-state Virginia National Guard members in-state tuition, per proposed legislation, which is one of the JLC priorities.

Ms. Alford gave a short overview of session and stated that with three special elections scheduled for January 10 the committee assignments will not be announced earlier than January 13 and probably not until the second week of session. There are only four veterans-related bills so far, she will update the JLC on January 12 with legislation that corresponds to their priorities and have a handout with that information.

She said she was looking forward to working with the new legislative chair, Mr. David Sitler and anticipates it being a good session.

New Business

Report of the VVFS Program Working Group

Chairman Barton asked Mr. Combs to go ahead and give his presentation on the "Report of the VVFS Program Working Group" before the break.

Mr. Combs directed everyone to their packets, which included the executive summary of the report. He noted that the full Working Group report had been e-mailed to the JLC members in November. He reviewed the makeup of the working group and their charge from the General Assembly to review VVFS and make recommendations. The VVFS Working Group recommended a revised goal/purpose for VVFS, a clear definition of key VVFS activities, and a Code change to re-codify the purpose/intent of VVFS. He said that the working group report included four funding options, but recommended Option #3, which converts all VVFS employees to state employees to improve service delivery, training, outcomes and program standardization. It will also allow for increased service capacity. Partnerships with the CSBs will continue, but contracts would end at the end of FY2017, which is June 30, 2017.

Mr. Combs directed everyone to the JLC Revised Proposed Position Paper 2017-01 that summarizes the working group's findings and recommendations. The proposed Recommendation of the JLC would be "That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 new positions in FY17; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all state employee service delivery structure."

There was a question from Mr. Rick Oertel about the funds and 21 employees and if this should match the Governor's introduced budget of \$610,128 and 34 employees. Mr. Combs responded that the paper reflects the working group's recommendations, but that he would contact the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) for clarification on the number of new positions. He stated that the important thing is that there be 45 total authorized GF positions in order to convert to state employee status. Once he finds out from DPB about the numbers he will update the JLC. Chairman Barton added that they can edit the position paper, if needed.

Mr. Bill Ashton asked about the increased amount and how the money would be used.

Mr. Combs and Ms. Alford said that the increased funding would allow for hiring employees at a salary commensurate with the position description and will allow for employees to have greater stability than in a contract situation. Chairman Barton noted that this approach would be similar to that used in the DVS Benefits section to attract and retain motivated employees.

Mr. Combs mentioned he had passed out a one-page, double sided, hand out with VVFS success stories that they can use when discussing 2017-01. (*Attachment 4*)

Review and discussion of 2 tentative 2017 JLC Initiatives

Mr. Dave Sitler, Legislative Officer, presented the initiative that Mr. Combs had discussed before the break, 2017-01 "Virginia Veterans and Family Support Program". (*Attachment 5*) He made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Chip Moran, to accept, and there was no discussion. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Mr. Sitler then presented proposal 2017-07 "Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program". (*Attachment 6*). Ms. Leslie Frazier, from Secretary Harvey's office, said this will be a

Governor's bill and they are still waiting for the legislation, which is being drafted. The grant program is for organizations currently working with veterans on entrepreneurship and the grant funds will to these organizations.

Mr. Wickersham pointed out that the position paper does not make that clear. Ms. Alford said they could edit the paper to make that more clear, and that it is clear in the draft legislation.

Ms. Lauren Augustine spoke on behalf of the paper, as the sponsor and also as the JLC representative to the BVS veteran entrepreneurship working group. She stated that as a veteran who has spent the past two years starting a business, she wishes this program had been around two years ago and encouraged the JLC to support the Secretary's proposal.

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Robert Barnette, to accept the proposed policy paper, with the additions for clarity noted above. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Mr. Sitler asked for discussion and a motion on re-establishing the priority order of the now seven legislative initiatives. Alternatively, the JLC could keep the priorities as listed, adding the Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Program as number 7.

Mr. Bill Ashton stated that he does not look at the numbers when talking to legislators and pushing for the initiatives, he pushes for all of the equally and wonders if they need to be prioritized and numbered.

Mr. Boyer made a **motion** to move number 7 to the 2nd position and renumber from there. Mr. Clickener **seconded**.

Mr. Oertel stated that the fiscal impact of number 7 is large and may not be well received by some members of the General Assembly and he questioned if JLC should make it their number 2 priority. He recommended making number 7 the 5th position and renumber from there.

Mr. Sitler asked if he was making a friendly amendment to Mr. Boyer's motion. He said yes. Mr. Boyer agreed to the friendly amendment. Mr. Oertel restated his previous statement as a friendly amendment. Mr. Frank Wickersham seconded.

The motion with the friendly amendment made and accepted; the vote passed 17-3, with Mr. Boyer, Mr. Rinaldo and Mr. Clickener dissenting. Mr. Oertel and Mr. Cooper abstained from voting.

A summary matrix and copies of the additional five position papers were included in the agenda packet for review and reference. A final summary matrix of the initiatives as approved for 2017 is included as *Attachment 7*.

Approval of 2017 Meeting Dates

The JLC voted to meet on the following dates in 2017:

- March 8
- May 31

- September 6
- December 20

The JLC approved meeting at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford on May 31st if they could secure a meeting space there. Ms. Alford will contact the memorial to make the arrangements. The meeting location for the other dates are currently TBD.

Approval of the 2017 Work Plan

Chairman Barton went through the work plan, reminding the JLC that this document is their outline for the year for when work is due. The meetings were moved up to earlier in the year to help accommodate the fact that they will need to do more research and work on policy initiatives as their slate of priorities over the past few years have been passed into law.

Mr. Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Ace Perry to accept the work plan. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Preparing for the JLC 2017 Conference at the General Assembly

Ms. Alford reminded everyone to fill out their signup sheets and turn them in as soon as possible. She stated she had copies with her for anyone who wanted to fill it out that day. She is happy to assist in making appointments with legislators and helping the members figure out who their Delegate and Senator are if needed. She also had parking information printed out for members to take. She reminded them to read through their “General Information” and “Guidelines” sheets before January 12th and let her know if they have any questions. She said everyone had been given a draft itinerary with the scheduled speakers and room information.

Chairman Barton made additional comments on the “Guidelines” and reminded everyone that they are there representing the JLC that day and not their member VSO or themselves and they will be expected to conduct themselves accordingly and only speak to the JLC priorities. He also noted that the Members had accepted a Work Plan that called for everyone to schedule at least two appointments for the 12th. Last year everyone was challenged to make 1 appointment, this year the goal is 2 and there will be a prize handed out in the afternoon to the member who makes and keeps the most appointments. The Chairman noted that chatting with legislators in the hallway does not count for the prize!

Public Comment

Mr. Stu Williams, MOAA, said farewell to the JLC as he moves back to California soon and wished them all well. Chairman Barton lead the group in three cheers for Mr. Williams.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Barton reminded the members to participate in the JLC conference on January 12.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
American Legion Building
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
December 21, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening– *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman and Tim Whitmore, JLC Chaplain* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda, introduction of new JLC Member, and introduction of guests – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Approve October 12, 2016 meeting minutes – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- IV. Reports (10:15 – 10:35)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Pat Webb, VSF Chairman*
 - c. VMAC, *Bill Barrett*
 - d. State Board of Elections, *Frank Wickersham*
 - e. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*
 - f. Hampton Drug Court Veterans Tract Advisory Council, *Rich Mansfield*
 - g. Fairfax Veteran Treatment Docket, *Dan Dennison*
- V. Overview of Governor McAuliffe’s proposed budget, legislation introduced to date, and DVS Update – *Steven Combs, Deputy Director, Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director* (10:35 – 11:00)

BREAK (11:00 – 11:10)

- VI. New business (11:10 – 12:00)
 - a. Review of “Report of the VVFS Program Working Group” Steven Combs (10 minutes)
 - b. JLC 2017 Tentative Position Papers – *David Sitler, JLC Legislative Officer* (10 minutes)
 - c. Approve 2017 Meeting Schedule (5 minutes) – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman*
 - d. Approve 2017 Work Plan (5 minutes) – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman*
 - e. Prepare for JLC 2017 Conference at the General Assembly – *Carrie Ann Alford, Conference Coordinator* (10 minutes)
 - f. Other New Business and Open Discussion – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)
- VII. Public comment period – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:00 – 12:10)
- VIII. Closing remarks – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:10 – 12:15)
- IX. Adjourn (12:15)

Lunch to follow

ATTACHMENT 2

BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICES (JLC) December 21, 2016

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on November 17, 2016. We held the meeting at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center where we received a warm welcome and update from Robyn Jennings, SBVCC Administrator. After our meeting we received a tour of the facility.

At the meeting, the Board received an update from DVS Deputy Commissioner Steve Combs on the VVFS work group and their presentation to JLARC on November 14th. We also had a presentation from Delegate Kirk Cox and Cheryl Jackson on the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission's December 8th event at the University of Richmond.

We approved our 2017 meeting dates, which will be March 16, June 22 and November 16.

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

This was the final BVS meeting for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Icenhour
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3
VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION
REPORT TO
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
December 21, 2016

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since the last BVS meeting. A Board meeting was held on November 9 with a quorum present. In addition to the usual report and update on VVFS, the Board heard reports from Benefits and the Military Medics and Corpsman Program and the following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meeting:

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY16 and 17;
- (2) Reviewed the Auditor of Public Accounts audit for CY15;
- (3) Reviewed a draft modification to the VSF Action Plan;
- (4) Approved the First FY17 VSF Financial Report;
- (5) Approved updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #5, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 9 and 11; and
- (6) Approved alternative VSF Meeting dates of May 11, Aug. 10, and Nov. 9 at the Libbie Mill Library.

We have noted that donors and donations have declined. They started to decrease in February 2016 but were not evident because donations normally decline in February. However, they did not increase significantly during the following five months except for April. Since the beginning of FY17 in July, donors and donations for VVFS, the benchmarking income account, have significantly decreased by 50 percent for donors and an average of 62 percent for donations. As of 30 November, the Foundation has received donations during FY17 of about \$237,500, of which only about \$129,500 is for VVFS and \$100,000 for V3. Fortunately, if this continues, the Foundation has sufficient reserves to cover the shortfalls for two years.

Indications point to a challenging FY 2017 as propensity to give may be reflected in a slower growth in donations, partly accounted for by ongoing economic issues facing the nation and Commonwealth as well as donor fatigue after significant donation revenue increases in past years.

The Foundation Board of Trustees has recently completed a Strategic Plan for FY 2017 through FY2021, with the assistance of the DVS staff, and is in the process of executing it per the corresponding Action Plan. This plan will include planning for annual and capital fund raising campaigns to address both the short and long term requirements for donations to sustain operations and meet the challenges the likes of which we are currently facing. The Foundation Board is looking forward to its implementation by all concerned, unless it is delayed by General Fund budget decreases or other DVS considerations.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2017 at the American Legion, but a Development Committee Retreat is planned for late February to discuss and develop a proposal to implement an annual as well as capital fund raising plan. Items for the March meeting may also include: (1) approval of the Second Quarter FY17 Financial Statement and (2) approval of budget adjustments for FY17, if any; (3) discussion of Strategy Plan and Board Action Plan progress; (4) take additional actions as required to support the five year strategy plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Webb
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4

Position Paper 2017-01 Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program

1. **Objective:** To put in place a new program goal and service delivery structure for the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program, revise the governing statute, and provide the necessary funding and positions to convert the program to an all-state employee program delivery structure.
2. **Background:**
 - a. VVFS was established in 2008 to ensure that Virginia veterans, Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families were connected to behavioral health, rehabilitative, and supportive services. It was the first state-level program of its kind in the nation.
 - b. A December 2015 report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) identified problems with the VVFS program's design and service implementation. The JLARC report recommended that a working group be formed to review VVFS and submit recommendations to JLARC.
 - c. The VVFS Working Group, comprised of the Secretaries of Veterans and Defense Affairs and Health and Human Resources, and the JLARC Director, presented its recommendations to JLARC on November 14, 2016.
 - d. The VVFS Working Group recommended that:
 - 1) A new goal/purpose for VVFS be adopted to address the issues identified in the JLARC report, set clear expectations for VVFS, avoid duplication, and make clear that VVFS does not provide direct clinical case management;
 - 2) The four key activities of VVFS should be awareness (general outreach, training, and standard data capture), intake ("triage" and identification of issues), planning & referral (development of a coordinated services plan, or CSP), and monitoring (of progress towards the CSP and potential service gaps);
 - 3) The Code of Virginia be revised to: clearly define the goal of VVFS and its key activities; reflect lessons learned since the program was created in 2008; incorporate the work of the 2015 JLARC study and the VVFS Working Group; and reflect the evolving nature of veterans needs and services;
 - 4) An additional \$700,000 (GF) be appropriated in FY18 to implement an all-state employee service delivery structure; and
 - 5) \$393,494 (GF) be transferred to DVS in FY17 for expenses associated with implementing the new program structure.
3. **Discussion:**
 - a. VVFS plays a crucial role in helping Virginia veterans, Guardsmen, Reservists, and family members identify the issues that impact their physical or mental health and well-being, developing a coordinated services plan to navigate the complex web of services they require, and monitoring them on their journey to resilience and recovery.
 - b. The JLC fully endorses the report of the VVFS Working Group that identifies changes required for VVFS to continue its vital mission.
4. **Recommendation:** That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 additional positions in FY17 and FY18; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee service delivery structure.

ATTACHMENT 5

One Person at a Time – How VVFS Changes Lives

*Examples of the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program in Action
November/December 2016*

- VVFS Region 1 (Northwestern) assisted a United States Marine Corps veteran who served from 1994-1995 before being medically discharged. The veteran has been homeless (in his car) for three years, attempting to care for his family, while receiving dialysis four times a week. The veteran was a walk-in to a Fredericksburg-area shelter. As a direct result of VVFS advocacy and resource coordination, this veteran and his family members were approved for a HUD/VASH (Housing & Urban Development /Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) voucher and moved into their new home just prior to Thanksgiving. In addition, VVFS coordinated a \$500 Energy Share voucher through community partners, and has enrolled the veteran in VVFS-funded behavioral health counseling at Rappahannock Area Community Services Board.
- VVFS Region 1 (Northern) is assisting a United States Army veteran, an infantryman who served in Iraq in support of Operation Desert Storm. VVFS began service coordination prior to the veteran's release from the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center on December 4. The veteran is enrolled in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and has a 20% disability rating due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and hearing loss. The veteran has been identified by the Fairfax Veteran Treatment Docket and a review meeting is scheduled. The veteran's current needs center around substance use issues, housing, employment and counseling upon release. VVFS is assisting veteran with possible admission into the substance abuse program at the VA Medical Center in Perry Point, MD., with renewing his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) license to help him obtain employment, and with enrolling in the VetLink Support Group in Oakton.
- VVFS Region 1 (Northwestern) assisted a United States Marine Corps combat veteran who was severely injured while deployed. The veteran was shot in the head and suffers from severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The veteran reported frustration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the unavailability of couples counseling. VVFS arranged for the counseling service through the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board. Additionally, VVFS advocated for the veteran to receive financial assistance through the Some Gave All Foundation and additional assistance through EnergyShare, and coordinated with the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) to enroll the veteran in a training program offering immediate job skills. The VEC will provide follow-on assistance with job training and placement. VVFS will continue to monitor and support this veteran as he receives services from each agency.
- VVFS Region 2 (Northern) assisted a veteran who served in the United States Army for 14 years and who struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The veteran lost his job, was experiencing homelessness, and was sleeping in his car. VVFS was connected to the veteran through the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Benefits Services office in Alexandria. VVFS connected the veteran to Friendship Place, a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program provider. Additionally, VVFS offered peer support and referral for behavioral health services, as well as a referral to Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia; however, the veteran requested to put these services on hold until he was housed and employed. VVFS continued to follow-up with the veteran, who reported that he is now housed and began a job on December 1. VVFS will continue to monitor and coordinate Peer Support, behavioral health, and rehabilitative care as requested by the veteran.
- VVFS Region 3 (Southwest) assisted an Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom United States Marine Corps veteran who was struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), substance use issues, and family concerns involving care of his children. VVFS provided direct connection to New River Valley Community Services for behavioral health and substance use counseling. Additionally, VVFS facilitated family intervention and

stabilization services with collaborating community providers to include the Department of Social Services (DSS), the local family court, and the Navy Marine Corps Support program. PTSD and TBI education was provided to the involved agencies by VVFS. The veteran is engaged in behavioral health and substance abuse services, the children have been returned to the home, and DSS remains involved. VVFS will provide monitoring support and resources to the veteran and his family as needed.

- VVFS Region 4 (Central) assisted a United States Army veteran seeking housing and employment assistance. The veteran has been chronically homeless on and off for approximately 15 years or more and sporadically employed during this time. In early 2016 the veteran had shoulder surgery, which limited his ability to seek manual labor positions, his primary type of employment. The veteran was placed in the Salvation Army Men's Shelter in Richmond, and soon after was accepted into HomeAgain, a Richmond-area non-profit that helps individuals and families secure and maintain a home. The veteran has started a computer training program through CARITAS, a Richmond-area non-profit that helps individuals break the cycle of addiction and homelessness. The computer training will provide the veteran with marketable employment skills. As part of the coordination of services, VVFS also provided the veteran with a 30-day bus pass to assist him in being able to attend the CARITAS training. HomeAgain will assist the veteran with transitioning into permanent housing, and VVFS will continue to monitor and assist with additional resource connections as needed.
- VVFS Region 4 (Central) assisted a retired, disabled United States Army veteran, referred to VVFS by a community partner. The veteran was experiencing two personal life crises, and verbalized feelings of desperation and thoughts of self-harm with potential plans for ending his life. VVFS staff obtained emergency crisis services with a clinician via the mobile crisis team, provided support to the veteran as he completed the referral and connection to emergency services. Once the veteran was stable, VVFS coordinated financial assistance for out-patient counseling through the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority. The veteran was also provided employment information and care coordination resources. VVFS staff continues to be an ongoing support for the veteran and his family.
- VVFS Region 4 (Central) assisted a United States Marine Corps veteran, currently living in a domestic violence shelter, who is transitioning from temporary housing to permanent housing. VVFS facilitated a connection with the Trust Home program located in Roanoke, which offers veterans stable housing and assistance with job placement/work therapy programs, behavioral health counseling services, transportation to imperative appointments, and connection with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- VVFS Region 5 (Hampton Roads) assisted a Virginia Army National Guardsman presenting with housing needs. Following a needs assessment with VVFS, the Guardsman was identified as being additionally in need of behavioral health services and employment. The VVFS connected the Guardsman to the Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health for an initial behavioral health assessment and to a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) employment specialist at the Hampton Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) office for employment services. With assistance from VVFS and the VEC, the Guardsman secured an interview for employment and was hired same day. VVFS and the Guardsman continue to address behavioral health service needs and identification of appropriate/suitable housing.
- VVFS Region 5 (Hampton Roads) assisted a United States Marine Corps veteran and his family, who were homeless and living out of their car. The veteran said that because of his daughter's disability, the family was unable to sleep in a shelter. VVFS connected the veteran to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Post 13, which assisted the family with a two-week hotel stay, groceries, and a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card. VVFS is continuing to work with the veteran on employment needs and securing stable housing.

ATTACHMENT 6
Position Paper 2017-05
Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To launch the Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program under the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to:
 - a. Increase entrepreneurship opportunities – business start-up and business retention – for Virginia veterans and transitioning service members;
 - b. Mentor and train more veteran entrepreneurs to have the necessary skills to execute their business plans and to grow and sustain their businesses;
 - c. Identify organizations that successfully deliver entrepreneurship services, and, through grant funding, enable these organizations to provide expanded entrepreneurship training/assistance to Virginia veterans; and
 - d. Spur entrepreneurship in high-demand sectors (ex. cybersecurity, IT, and agriculture) to help grow and diversify Virginia’s economy.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - a. Small businesses and entrepreneurship are central to our economy. A June 2016 report noted that “*There are currently 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in America, representing 9.1 percent of all U.S. businesses that combined generate about \$1 trillion in receipts and employ nearly 6 million Americans.*” It also noted that veterans are more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans.
 - b. There are organizations that can provide entrepreneurship training and mentoring for Virginia veterans; this can be expanded with grant funding.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - a. The path to entrepreneurship is challenging, but military service has given veterans the motivation, skills, and abilities they need to succeed. They just need the right training and help getting started.
 - b. Partnering with organizations that have a proven track record of working with veteran entrepreneurs will be a force multiplier, allowing us to keep these highly skilled and motivated men and women in Virginia.
 - c. Under the pilot program, DVS would:
 - i. Develop guidelines laying out the objectives of the grant program, general requirements for applying and qualifying for a grant, and the metrics against which grant awardee performance will be measured;
 - ii. Solicit grant-funding proposals from organizations that currently provide veteran entrepreneur training and mentoring in Virginia;
 - iii. Evaluate the proposals and award grants to those organizations that are best positioned to begin providing services veteran entrepreneurs immediately; and
 - iv. Monitor and evaluate the results achieved by grant awardees to ensure that the program’s objectives are being met.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating the *Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program* under the Department of Veterans Services and appropriate \$900,000 (GF) per year in FY18 and FY19 to award grants to companies that provide entrepreneurship training to veterans. Also, that the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) continue its work on veteran entrepreneurship and develop additional recommendations for consideration.

ATTACHMENT 7

Summary of 2017 JLC Policy Initiatives December 21, 2016

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
JLC 2017-01 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 new positions in FY17 and FY18; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee service delivery structure.
JLC 2017-02 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate additional \$100,000 (GF) FY18 to ensure the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.
JLC 2017-03 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.
JLC 2017-04 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans
JLC 2017-05 <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Program</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating the <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i> under the Department of Veterans Services and appropriate \$900,000 (GF) per year in FY18 and FY19 to award grants to companies that provide entrepreneurship training to veterans. Also, that the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) continue its work on veteran entrepreneurship and develop additional recommendations for consideration.
JLC 2017-06 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran's disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran's spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.
JLC 2017-07 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia's deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.